

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06339 032033Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-08 /025 W
-----068041 032133Z /61
P R 031831Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5931
INFO DEP OF COMMERCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 6339

FOR ARA/MR. DEVINE FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, ETEL, CI
SUBJ: IVP CANDIDATE FERNANDO FERNANDEZ PEREZ

REF: SANTIAGO 5224

1. I AM CONCERNED OVER DELAY IN APPROVAL OF IVP CANDIDATE FERNANDEZ, WHOSE CASE HAS BEEN PENDING OVER PAST YEAR. CU ADVISES THAT OUR TELEGRAMS REQUESTING APPROVAL HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO ARA FOR REPLY. FERNANDEZ HAS BEEN NAMED UNDERSECRETARY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE NEWLY-REORGANIZED MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

2. IN HIS PRESENT POSITION, FERNANDEZ EITHER ATTENDS HIMSELF OR APPOINTS THAT CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVES TO ALL INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCES. OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE USG INTERNATIONALLY WILL BE HIS ROLE IN THE UPCOMING WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE. DOMESTICALLY, HE HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILEAN RADIO AND TELEVISION POLICY, INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF THE COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEM TO BE ADOPTED HERE. GENERALLY, FERNANDEZ BELIEVES THAT CHILEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACROSS THE BOARD SHOULD ALIGN ITSELF WITH THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS POSITIVE ORIENTATION ON HIS PART COULD BE
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STRENGTHENED, AND, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, MADE MORE EFFECTIVE, THROUGH AN IVP GRANT.

3. I SUSPECT THAT THE REASON FOR THE DELAY HAS BEEN FERNANDEZ' MILITARY BACKGROUND. HE MADE HIS CAREER IN THE SIGNAL CORPS OF THE CHILEAN ARMY, FROM WHICH HE RECENTLY RETIRED AS A COLONEL. FOR REASONS HAVING TO DO WITH PAY AND ALLOWANCES, HE CONTINUES TO

HOLD MILITARY RANK ON A CONTRACT BASIS WHILE SERVING IN A SENIOR CIVILIAN CAPACITY. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS DEDICATED TECHNICIAN WAS CLOSE TO THE POLITICAL DECISIONS OF 1973, OR THE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN THEREAFTER.

4. FURTHER DELAY IN THE APPROVAL OF THIS CANDIDACY COULD RESULT NOT ONLY IN THE LOSS OF BENEFITS TO THE UNITED STATES LIKELY TO FLOW FROM FERNANDEZ' VISIT, BUT FOR THIS POST, A LOSS OF AN IVP SLOT IN THIS FY. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL DO ALL YOU CAN TO EXPEDITE MATTERS.
BOYATT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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